Procedure to issue passports

*142. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering several proposals to expedite the issue of passports, including the proposal to issue passports without police verification reports;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken recently to simplify the procedure to issue passports;

(c) whether Government also propose to computerise all the passport offices in the country so as to remove the bottlenecks in this regard; and

(d) the number of pending applica tions in each passport office in the coun try as on 1st January, 1991 and by when these would be expedited?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR): (a), (b) and (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (Annexure I and II)

(c) Yes, Sir.

Statement ,

I. SIMPLIFICATION OF PASSPORT PROCEDURE

I. Following categories of applicants have been exempted from requirement of prior police and CID verifications before issue of passports to them:

(1) All Government servants and Em ployees of Public Sector Undertakings who alongwith their applications submit. No Objection Certificate (NOC) and verification certificate signed by their Head of Department on official stationery.

(2) Where an applicant submits his application accompanied with a verification certificate signed by either;

(i) a Deputy Secretary to the Government of India and above;

(ii) a Joint Secretary and above to a State Government;

(iii) a Sub-Divisional Magistrate and above;

(iv) District Superintendent of Police and above.

(3) Retired Gazetted Government Servants.

(4) Former Members of the Union Parliament (Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha) and State Legislatures (Assemblies and Councils).

(5) In all other cases where Regional Passport Officers/Passport Officers are otherwise satisfied with genuiness of applicant, a passport may be issued where police and CID do not send their reports in 4 weeks after despatching personal particulars forms to them.

(6) Children below the age of 15 years will be issued passport without Police verification.

(7) Persons holding normal passports will be issued fresh passports after 10 years of its validity without prior police/ CID verification.

II. As from 16.8.1990, the Indian or dinary passport has been made valid for a period of ten years at a stretch from date of issue.

III. Passport Application Forms have been revised and can be printed and issued free of charge by recognised Travel Agents.

IV Procedure for recognition of Travel Agents dealing with Passport Offices has been simplified for ex-service men and unrepresented districts.

II *No. of applications pending in each Passport Office as on* 1-1-1991 *including applications received on* 31-12-90

S. No.	Name of Passport Office	Appli-cations pending	Average time to issue passport
1	Ahmedabad	1146	7 weeks
2	Bangalore	6195	5-6 weeks
3	Bareilly .	10500	16 weeks
4	Bhopal .	3234	6 weeks
5	Bhubaneshwar	359	5 weeks
6	Bombay	21409	5-6 weeks
7	Calcutta	7633	5 weeks
8	Chandgarh Shimla	25721	13 weeks
9	Cochin Trivandrum	18764	12 weeks
10	Delhi	13966	6-7 weeks
11	Guwahati	721	7 weeks
12	Hyderabad	8004	5 weeks
13	Jaipur	6221	9 weeks
14	Jalandhar .	46997	2S weeks
15	Kozhikode	14331	7 weeks
16	Lucknow .	12S72	9 weeks
17	Madras .	7403	4 weeks
13	Nagpur .	399	5 weeks
19	Panaji (Goa)	854	4 weeks
20	Pana	44S5	5 weeks
21	Tiruchirapalli	20317	6 weeks

National river action Plan

*146. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) he: Government propose to launch a National river action plan' for the prevention and control of water pol lution; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY); (a) and (b) The Government proposes to launch a National River Action Plan on the analogy of the work taken up under Ganga Action Plan. The Plan would be implemented in the following manner:—

1. The works would be prioritised according to their benefits and implemented in a phased programme according to the availability of resources.
2. The thrust areas for treatment would be sewage interception, diversion and treatment and control of industrial and non-point pollution.